

**Sampark Kranti trains**

2686. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he has announced to start Sampark Kranti trains connecting Delhi to every State Capital in the last budget;
- (b) if so, how many Sampark Kranti trains have started operating, so far;
- (c) whether it is a fact that majority of the Sampark routes are delayed;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) by when the Sampark Kranti trains to all State Capitals would be operationalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) All the 19 pairs of Sampark Kranti trains announced have been introduced.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

**Train halt at Laksar**

†2687. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the mail/express trains which have been ordered to halt for the transportation facility of the people affected by Tehri Dam rehabilitated in large number near Laksar in the State of Uttaranchal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures taken for providing railway facilities in the hilly States like Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) At present 8 Mail/Express trains are available ex Dehradun/Haridwar for the passengers desiring to travel to Laksar. In addition to this, 5 passenger and 1 Mail/Express trains are available ex Rishikesh to Haridwar.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) During the last few years, the following measures have been taken for providing Railway facilities for the State of Uttarakhand and Himachal:

**Uttarakhand**

*Introduction*

- a. 2055/2056 New Delhi-Dehradun Jan Shatabdi Express (6 days a week).
- b. 4319/4320 Dehradun-Kathgodam Express *w.e.f.* 09.01.2001.
- c. 2053/2054 Haridwar-Amaritsar Jan Shatabdi (6 days a week) *w.e.f.* 27.10.2006.
- d. 2687/2688 Chennai-Dehradun *w.e.f.* 30.10.2003.

*Extension*

- a. 8477/8478 Puri-Haridwar Utkal Express (daily) *w.e.f.* 01.07.2005.
- b. 9105/9106 Ahmedabad-Haridwar(daily) *w.e.f.* 01.07.2006.

*Increase in Frequency*

- a. 4319/4320 Dehradun-Kathgodam Express from tri-weekly to daily *w.e.f.* 11.11.2006.

**Himachal**

*Introduction*

- a. 4035/4036 Delhi-Pathankot Dhauladhar Express (tri-weekly) *w.e.f.* 25.12.2002, providing connection to Narrow Gauge line to Himachal.

**Outsourcing of Railway tickets**

2688 SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have granted a licence to the Travel Agents Association of India;
- (b) the details of this permission;
- (c) the way Railways would make it easier for the public to buy tickets;